

COP26 Geneva Cryosphere Hub – Provisional Programme

All events will be streamed live on GeCryoHub.ch

Legenda: **Public event**

Webinar

Highlight presentation

Schedule	Swiss local time/location	Event type, organiser and main contact	Title/theme/speakers	Other info
Monday 01 November	All day GeCryoHub.ch	Exhibition opening and video series University of Geneva, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative Contact: Candice.Yvon@unige.ch Anna.Scolobig@unige.ch	From climate science to ambition: launch of the COP 26 Cryosphere Hub in Geneva and Pavillion in Glasgow This virtual event will consist of the launch of a series of videos describing the COP26 Geneva and Glasgow Cryosphere Hubs. It will guide participants through the 2 week programme of events, conferences, webinars, presentations, exhibitions and immersive experiences. Speakers: Prof. Geraldine Pflieger and Prof. Markus Stoffel (University of Geneva), Ambassador Stefan Estermann (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), Dr. Heidi Sevestre/ Pam Pearson (International Cryosphere Climate Initiative)	
Monday 01 November	17:15-18:45 GVA UniMail Boulevard du Pont d'Arve 40 GLA Pavillion; GeCryoHub.ch streaming	Public event University of Geneva, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Contact: Markus.Stoffel@unige.ch samuel.jaccard@unil.ch	A world without glaciers How can scientists contribute to enhancing climate ambition, in Switzerland and beyond? Glaciers, snow cover and permafrost are disappearing all over the world as a result of global warming. Faced with this emergency, scientists are working to improve the physical science underpinning past, present and future climate change, thus contributing to an ever-strengthening understanding of how the climate system works, and how it is changing in response to human activity. What are the new scientific findings emerging from the Sixth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ? What are the consequences for mountain and polar regions? What risks will Switzerland be exposed to in the near future? What are the new strategies that can be adopted to reduce risk? On the basis of the most recent IPCC findings (focus on Working Group 1) presented by the keynote speakers, the panelists will discuss how to raise the ambition level for achieving COP26 tangible outcomes. They will discuss what new scientific evidence is needed to improve climate policies, in Switzerland	Link to the agenda

			<p>and beyond, and the role of scientists in public debates, political decision-making and collective action.</p> <p>Speakers: Rectorate University of Geneva, Prof. Samuel Jaccard (University of Lausanne), Prof. Sonia Seneviratne (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich), Dr. Mathias Huss (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich), Prof. Markus Stoffel (University of Geneva), Prof. Geraldine Pflieger (University of Geneva), Dr. Elena Manaenkova (Deputy Secretary-General, WMO), with the participation of members of the Swiss delegation Moderator: Claire Doole</p>	
Tuesday 02 November	13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch streaming	<p>Highlight presentation University of Geneva</p> <p>Contact: Martin.Beniston@unige.ch</p>	<p>Mountain water resources in a changing climate</p> <p>Snow and ice are major components of the hydrological cycle in many mountain regions of the world. As these elements of the cryosphere are very sensitive to temperature, it is expected that in a warming climate, many glaciers will decline sharply in size or even disappear. In addition, the snow season will be shorter, with snow melt earlier in the year and less volume of melt-water to feed rivers downstream. As a consequence, many rivers originating in currently-glaciated mountains will see major changes in the quantity, timing, and seasonality of runoff, with significant consequences for downstream water usage, e.g., agriculture, hydropower, tourism, and manufacturing. There is thus a crucial need to revise current water governance strategies in order to avoid conflicts of interest between various water-dependent economic actors.</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Martin Beniston (University of Geneva)</p>	Docu mentary link Project informati on
Wednesday, 03 November	13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch streaming	<p>Webinar Swiss Data Cube and University of Geneva</p> <p>Contact: Charlotte.Poussin@unige.ch</p>	<p>Earth observations for monitoring climate change impacts in mountain regions</p> <p>The focus of the session will be on the potential offered by Earth Observation (EO) technology to observe, monitor and assess the Earth's Cryosphere. The lecture will present the Global Network for Observations and Information in Mountain Environments (GEO Mountains) and the World Environment Situation Room Mountain (WESR-mountain) that aim to provide all the necessary discoverability and accessibility to existing mountain data and information – both in situ and remotely sensed – across global mountain regions. In this context, the concept of Essential Mountain Climate Variables (EMCVs) will be introduced to support the monitoring and understanding of key climate change-related mountain processes.</p>	Data and further info

			<p>In the second phase, two case studies in Switzerland and Italy using the EO Swiss Data Cube (SDC) infrastructure will be presented to show the possibilities of mapping one of the Essential Climate Variables - snow cover - from space.</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. James Thornton (Mountain Research Initiative and GEO Mountains), Dr. Yaniss Guigoz (University of Geneva, UNEP/GRID Geneva), Dr. Gregory Giuliani (University of Geneva, UNEP/GRID Geneva), Charlotte Poussin (University of Geneva, UNEP/GRID Geneva)</p>	
<p>Wednesday 03 November</p>	<p>17:00-19:00 GVA UniMail recording studio GLA Pavillion; GeCryoHub.ch streaming</p>	<p>Webinar GVA GLA duplex Society for threatened Peoples Switzerland</p> <p>Contact: Lea Künzli kampagnen-3@gfbv.ch</p>	<p>Indigenous people's rights and climate change in the Arctic</p> <p>This Side Event to the COP26 offers the opportunity for first-hand insights into the perspectives of Indigenous communities affected by climate change. The Webinar will deal with two topics. On the one hand, the audience will learn about the effects of climate change on Indigenous communities in the Arctic. One of the speakers, Rodion Sulyandziga will present the newly-founded "Indigenous Peoples' Platform on Traditional Knowledge and Adaptation to Climate Change". This platform was created to exchange experience in the field of climate monitoring and adaptation to climate change, based on traditional indigenous knowledge and in partnership with the scientific community. The second part of the side-event will discuss the negative effects of the industrialisation of the Arctic region, also in the name of mitigation measures to climate change. We will discuss how Indigenous peoples' rights can be safeguarded in these projects.</p> <p>Speakers (tbc): Rodion Sulyandziga (director of the Centre for the Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North (CSIPN) and member of the UN Expert Mechanism for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), Maja Kristine Jåma (member of Sami parliament in Norway and reindeer herder ; Silje Karine Muotka (president of Norwegian Sami Parliament) ; Alannah Hurley (Executive Director of United Tribes of Bristol Bay), Gennady Shchukin (indigenous leader of Taimyr peninsula), Andrei Danilov (indigenous leader from Kola Peninsula), Members of the Inuit Circumpolar Council</p>	<p>Link to the agenda/ concept</p>
<p>Friday 05 November</p>	<p>13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch</p>	<p>Highlight presentation/discussion University of Geneva</p>	<p>Governance of polar regions</p> <p>Polar regions are facing major pressures from climate change and the impacts of human activities both on land and the seas. The aim of our highlight presentation is to better understand the main dimensions of the polycentric governance of polar regions, comparing the Antarctic and the Arctic. We will deal in particular with the</p>	

		Contact : Geraldine.Pflieger@unige.ch	sovereignty status of these two areas regarding international law and how state and non state-actors are integrated in the governance systems, were they local, regional, national or transnational actors. We will then show how these two different governance systems are facing climate change and what are the main challenges for the governance of those areas in a context of change in the next years. Speaker: Prof. Geraldine Pflieger (University of Geneva)	
Monday 08 November	13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch streaming	Highlight presentation/discussion Paul Scherrer Institut Contact: margit.schwikowski@psi.ch	The International ICE MEMORY Initiative Glaciers are known to contain memories and traces of past climate and environment, but they are on retreat worldwide. ICE MEMORY is an initiative aiming to provide and manage ice cores, and the information they contain, for decades and centuries to come. Safeguarding these ice cores is key to providing scientific advances and knowledge, all the while guiding political decisions, which will eventually contribute to the well-being of humanity. Speaker: Dr. Margit Schwikowski (Paul Scherrer Institut)	
Monday 08 November	17:15-18:45 GVA UniMail Boulevard du Pont d'Arve 40, Geneva GLA Pavillion; GeCryoHub.ch streaming 18:45-20.00 GVA UniMail (reception)	Public event SDC/FDFA Switzerland SDC-supported partners: Adaptation at Altitude Programme, University of Geneva, Zoï Environment Network, University of Zürich, University of Fribourg, Mountain Research Initiative, CONDESAN, ICIMOD Contact: manfred.kaufmann@eda.admin.ch nina.saalismaa@zoinet.org	A fragile future: can mountain communities adapt to climate change? Climate change threatens the vast high latitude and high altitude cold regions of the world that provide freshwater to over half of humanity. What impacts of climate change on the cryosphere have already been experienced in Latin America, Central Asia and the Andes? What risks will these regions be exposed to? After addressing these questions, the panelists will explore adaptation solutions and experiences, especially in mountain areas, with a focus on developing countries. Speakers: Prof. Jörg Balsiger (University of Geneva); Prof. Christian Huggel (University of Zürich); Prof. Martin Hölzle (University of Fribourg); Prof. Markus Stoffel (University of Geneva); Randy Muñoz, (University of Zurich); Dr. Carolina Adler (Mountain Research Initiative); Elena Manaenkova (Deputy Secretary-General, WMO); Dr. Radha Wagle, UNFCCC Focal Point, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Nepal; Ms. Nino Tkhilava, UNFCCC Focal Point, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia (tbc); Janine Kuriger, Head, Global Programme Climate Change and Environment, SDC; Marlene Kronenberg, glaciologist, University of Fribourg,	Link to the agenda

			<p>Founder of Adventure of Science; NGO representative, CONDESAN (tbc); Izabella Koziell, Deputy Director General, ICIMOD; with the participation of members of the Swiss delegation</p> <p>The event will be followed by a networking reception in UniMail Geneva.</p>	
Tuesday 09 November	17:00-18:00 GVA Unimail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch streaming	<p>Webinar World Bank, Adaptation at Altitude Programme, University of Zurich, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of Geneva</p> <p>Contact: Anna.Scolobig@unige.ch</p>	<p>Upscaling adaptation solutions for vulnerable mountain regions through international cooperation</p> <p>This event will focus on the potential barriers to uptake as well as the possible enablers to applying solutions to adapt to climate change in mountain regions. Emphasis will also be on social vulnerability and on the facilitating role that international organisations have taken to upscale solutions and to leverage Swiss and global expertise to tackle cryosphere-related disaster issues. The “Last Glaciers” documentary teaser will be showcased as a raising global awareness initiative.</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Daniel Kull (World Bank), Dr. Simon Allen (University of Geneva), Sabine McCallum (Adaptation at Altitude Programme), Dr. Graham McDowell (University of Zurich and University of Calgary), Craig Leeson (Documentary director)</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Julia Barrott (Stockholm Environment Institute Oxford)</p>	Link to the agenda
Wednesday 10 November	13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio GeCryoHub.ch streaming	<p>Highlight presentation/discussion Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF)</p> <p>Contact: adrien.michel@epfl.ch</p>	<p>Snow, glaciers, water availability and water temperature in Switzerland under climate change</p> <p>The climate system, cryosphere and hydrological system are deeply intertwined and influence each other. For example, changes in air temperature drives glacier melt, which in turn directly influences streamflow during summer months. This lecture presents recent scientific evidence on the link between these different systems in the context of a changing climate in Switzerland, including results of the "Hydro-CH2018" project of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. This presentation addresses changes in the climate system itself, in ice and snow cover, in water availability and temperature, and in their interactions, along with the consequences for the ecosystem and human society. We present evidence of changes over the last 50 years and projections towards the end of the 21st century for these different variables and system components with different</p>	Project final report link

			<p>greenhouse gas emission pathways. Finally, possible mitigation strategies for water scarcity and high temperature in rivers will be discussed.</p> <p>Speaker: Adrien Michel (School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne, Switzerland; WSL Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research (SLF), Davos, Switzerland) Co-authors available below *</p> <p>Highlight presentation/discussion Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne</p>	
Thursday 11 November	13:00-14:00 GVA UniMail recording studio GeCryoHub.ch	<p>Webinar Swiss Polar Institute</p> <p>Contact: daniele.rod@swisspolar.ch basil.fahrlaender@swisspolar.ch</p>	<p>Contributing to climate science through research in polar and high-altitude regions: the early-career researchers' point of view</p> <p>Speakers: early career scientists</p>	
Thursday 11 November	17:00-18:00 GVA UniMail recording studio; GeCryoHub.ch	<p>Highlight presentation/discussion Meteoswiss</p> <p>Contact : Sven.Kotlarski@meteoswiss.ch</p>	<p>CH2018: Climate scenarios at national scale</p> <p>The planning of climate adaptation measures and the assessment of mitigation options requires a solid and trustworthy background in terms of climate change scenarios at various spatial scales. In Switzerland, the latest generation of such scenarios was published in 2018 and provides a comprehensive set of scenario products serving a large range of user communities and representing the state-of-the-art scientific understanding of regional climate change. We here present the main scientific approaches leading to the CH2018 scenarios and their key results, and also provide an overview on available user products. A further focus is set on the consequences of future climate change for the alpine cryosphere, especially for surface snow cover.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Sven Kotlarski</p>	
Friday 12	13:00-14:00 GeCryoHub.ch	<p>Webinar Highlight presentation/discussion</p>	<p>Advancing Climate Action through Multilateralism in Geneva (tbc)</p> <p>Speakers (tbc)</p>	

November (tbc)		Contact: diana.rizzolio@un.org		
Friday 12 November	Tbc GVA Unimail GLA Pavillion GeCryoHub.ch	Public event (tbc) University of Geneva, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Contact : Geraldine.Pflieger@unige.ch	From climate ambition to science: Glasgow main achievements and ways forward This event will present some reflections about COP26 key achievements. Speaker: S.Exc.Mme Jane Caroline Owen (Extraordinary Ambassador of Great Britain, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland), Ambassador Stefan Estermann (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), Prof. Geraldine Pflieger (University of Geneva), Prof. Samuel Jaccard (University of Lausanne), with the participation of members of the Swiss delegation	

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